

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 is amended and claim 6 is added. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 are rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,755,434 to Takatoshi et al (hereinafter "Takatoshi").

Independent claim 1 is amended herewith to clarify that "the first pickup roller provided at an end portion of the paper stacked on the paper support base," "a second pickup roller provided at a central portion of the paper stacked on the paper support base" and "the shutter is switched in the open state to use a paper transport force of the second pickup roller at the same time in addition a paper transport force of the first pickup roller only when more than a prescribed weight or a prescribed number of sheets of paper are stacked on the paper support base." The claim amendments are supported by the originally filed specification, for example, in FIG. 1, rollers 1 and 2, and the shutter 3, with the corresponding description in the specification.

Takatoshi discloses a banknote dispensing machine having a letting-out roller 21 that provides the transportation force necessary to pick-up and dispense a bank note from the bank notes staked therein, and a plurality of bank note feeding rollers 50, 51 etc. that receive the bank notes moved by the letting-out roller 21. The Office Action alleges that the bank note feeding roller 51 corresponds to the first roller of the claim 1 apparatus, and the letting-out roller 21 corresponds to the second pick-up roller of the claim 1 apparatus.

However, unlike the first pick-up roller of the claim 1 apparatus, the bank note feeding roller 51 is not "provided at an end portion of the paper stacked on the paper support base." The roller is not in contact with the stacked bank notes in Takatoshi's machine. Therefore, contrary to the features recited in claim 1, the bank note feeding roller 51 alone cannot provide paper transport force when the weight is less than the prescribed weight or the number of sheets stacked on the paper support base is less than the prescribed number of sheets. Moreover the bank note feeding roller 51 cannot be used to provide the paper transport force to output a bank note if the letting-out roller 21 is not in contact with the bank note to push the bank note to the bank note feeding roller 51.

In view of the remarks above, the letting-out roller 21 of Takatoshi does not correspond to the second pick-up roller of the claim 1 apparatus because it does not "[assist] the first pickup roller to transport the paper sheet into the bottom removal-type paper supply apparatus." That is,

the bank note feeding roller 51 allegedly corresponding to the first pick-up roller cannot output a bank note without the letting-out roller 21 pushing the bank note to the bank note feeding roller 51 in Takatoshi.

Further, the stopper 60 in Takatoshi does not anticipate the shutter of the claim 1 apparatus because it does not switch the contact of the second pick-up roller based on whether “more than a prescribed weight or a prescribed number of sheets of paper are stacked on the paper support base.”

At least for these reasons, the cited prior art reference, Takatoshi, fails to anticipate the apparatus as recited in claim 1.

Claim 2-4 depending from claim 1, patentably distinguish over Takatoshi by inheriting patentable features from claim 1 and by reciting additional patentable features. For example, the Office Action has failed to put forth a *prima facie* case that Takatoshi explicitly or implicitly discloses

(1) “wherein the shutter is switched between the open state and the closed state based on sensing the weight of the paper stacked on the paper support base, and the shutter is controlled to be in the open state when the weight of the paper is larger than the prescribed weight, and to be in the closed state when the weight of the paper is less than or equal to the prescribed weight” as recited in claim 3, and

(2) “wherein the shutter is switched between the open state and the closed state based on sensing a pickup miss by the first pickup roller, and the shutter is controlled to be in the open state when a pickup miss has occurred because more than the prescribed number of sheets of paper are stacked on the paper support base, and to be in the closed state when the sheet of paper has been transported through the apparatus” as recited in claim 4.

The Office Action does not address the features recited in claim 5 separately from the features recited in claim 1. Thus, the Office Action has failed to put forth a *prima facie* case of anticipation relative to claim 5. Claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Takatoshi at least by reciting:

- a first pickup roller, **located at an end portion of a paper stack, to pick a paper sheet from the paper stack, and to transport the paper sheet into the paper supply apparatus** (Applicants respectfully submit that the bank note feeding roller 51 is NOT located at an end portion of the paper, does not pick a paper sheet from the paper staked, but receives a bank note pushed by the letting-out roller 21, and thus,

- is unable by itself to transport the paper sheet into the paper supply apparatus)
- a second pickup roller, located at a central portion of the paper stack, and **assisting the first pickup roller to transport the sheet of paper into the paper supply apparatus** when the second pickup roller is in contact to the paper; (As discussed above, the bank note feeding roller 51 in Takatoshi would not be able to transport a bank note unless the second pick-up roller is in contact with the paper) and
 - a shutter switchable between an open state in which the second pickup roller is in contact with the paper, and a closed state in which the shutter prevents the contact between the second pickup roller and the paper, so that **only the first pickup roller transports the paper sheet through the paper supply apparatus**, (In Takatoshi, the bank note feeding roller 51, which is indicated by the Office Action as corresponding to the recited first roller, cannot transport the paper sheet through the paper supply apparatus if the letting-out roller 21 is not in contact with the paper, i.e. the bank notes)
 - **the shutter is switched in the open state when the paper stack weights more than a prescribed weight or has more than a prescribed number of sheets of paper.**

NEW CLAIM 6

New claim 6 describes features of the shutter included in the claim 1 apparatus. The claim is supported by the originally filed specification, for example, FIGS. 3 and 4 with the corresponding description. No new matter is added. Claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the prior art by inheriting patentable features from claim 1 and by reciting additional patentable features which are not anticipated by Takatoshi.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/575,230

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Dec. 8, 2008

By: LT Bodor
Luminita A. Todor
Registration No. 57,639

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501